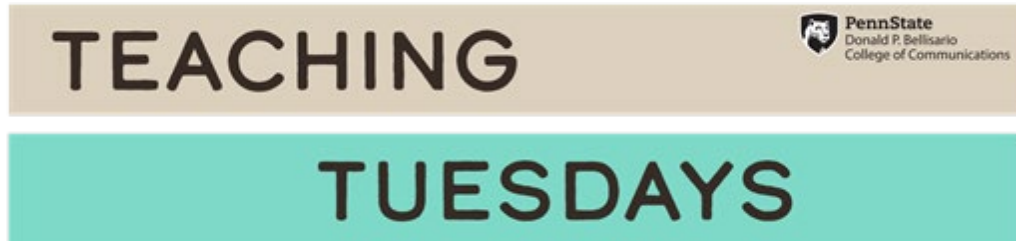


From: [Bortree, Denise Sevick](#)
To: L-COMM-FACULTY@LISTS.PSU.EDU
Subject: Teaching Tuesdays - Canvas Annotation Tool by John-Erik Koslosky
Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 4:00:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image014.png](#)



Welcome to Teaching Tuesdays! It's a winter wonderland outside today. The snowblowers are getting a workout this week. Stay safe and warm! In today's Teaching Tuesdays column, John-Erik Koslosky shares a Canvas function that he finds particularly useful – the annotation tool. Grading student papers online can be a challenge, but the annotation tool can help instructors give feedback in an easy-to-read format for students. I hope you find this helpful. Have a good week.

Upcoming speaker events

Creating Content in 2021: Corporate Communications: The Bellisario Alumni Society Board continues its series on creating content *tonight at 6 pm*. Students can learn about corporate communication work from alumni Patrick Bunting, Sr. Director of Communications at NBCUniversal Media; Bernadette Dunn, Sr. Director of Communications at CommScope; and Carol Rath Gosser, Director of Communications at Accelerated Enrollment Solutions. The session will be moderated by Natalie Buyny, ASB. See more at <https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/alumni/creating-content-in-2021>.

The Arc of Intentionality in Creative Work: *Tonight at 7 pm* Juleyka Lantigua Williams, founder of award winning production company Lantigua Williams & Co, will speak about how she uses intentionality in her work, and how she builds it into her company structure. Learn more at <https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/journalism-speakers-forum>.

A Conversation with Joon Lee: Join ESPN staff writer Joon Lee on *Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 pm* as he discusses his work, as part of the Conversation Series conducted by the [John Curley Center for Sports Journalism](#).

Teaching Tuesdays - Say Goodbye to Pen & Paper Grading with Canvas Annotation Tools

By John-Erik Koslosky, Bellisario College Ph.D. student

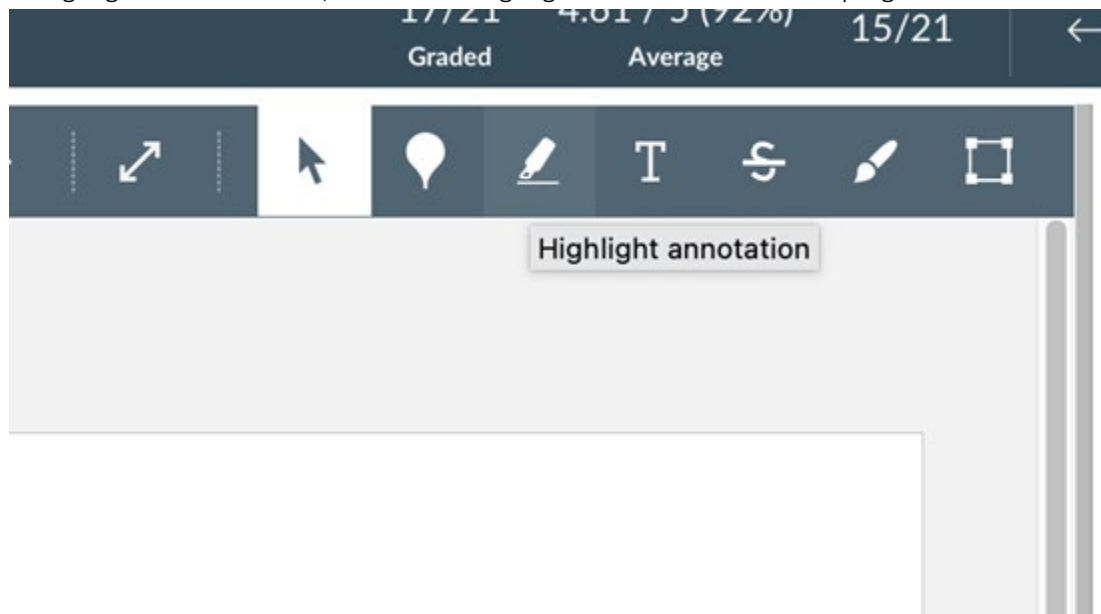
I'll confess to being one of those profs who likes to download a batch of assignments, print them out, and mark them up by hand.

When COVID forced us all to do things differently, those hand-written notes went by the wayside. Last semester, I started using the annotation tools in Canvas, and I don't think I'll ever go back, even after we're past COVID restrictions. Here's why:

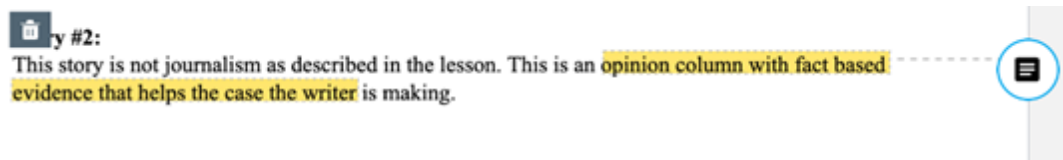
1. My handwriting is hard for some to read. If a student can't read my writing, I've wasted my time and theirs, and forfeited the opportunity for learning. Annotation tools eliminate this confusion and ensure safe passage for any feedback I provide.
2. The annotation tools in Word and other programs are great for feedback. But downloading and uploading files is time-consuming. With annotation tools in Canvas SpeedGrader, all of my time is spent on what it should be: feedback. That gives me two advantageous options:
 - a. I can get done faster than the time I'd ordinarily reserve for assignment evaluation; or
 - b. I can spend the time I would have spent downloading and uploading (or printing things out) on providing more meaningful feedback to students.
3. It's easier for students. My students can see the feedback I've provided without having to download a new marked-up document. They can if they want to, but they don't have to.

If you haven't tried out these tools yourself, they're remarkably easy to use.

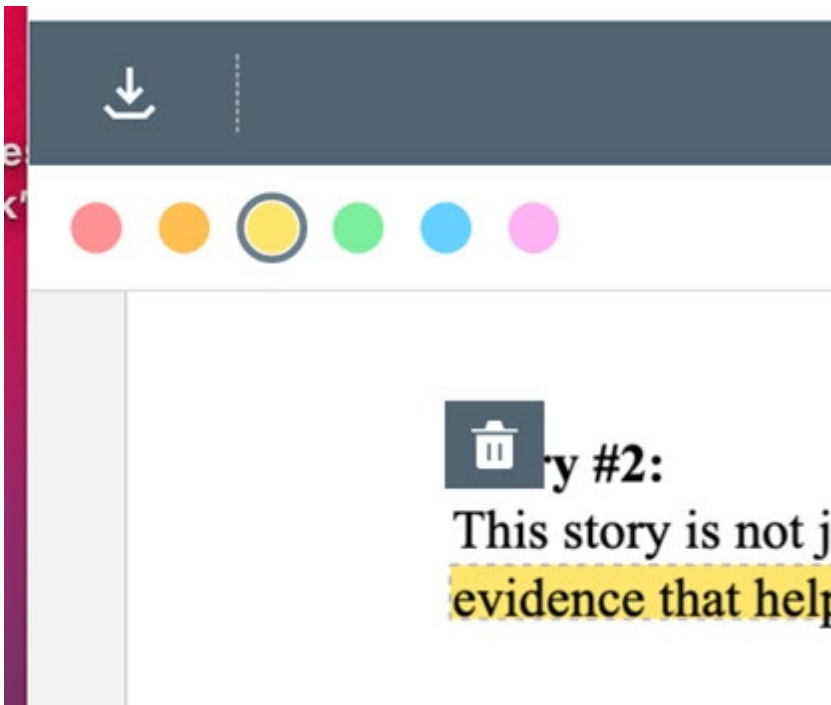
To highlight and add notes, select the "Highlight annotation" in the top right tool bar.



Then, select the text you want to comment on.



It will highlight in yellow as a default, but you can select other colors in the upper left corner.



If you select the wrong text, just click on the trash can and do over.

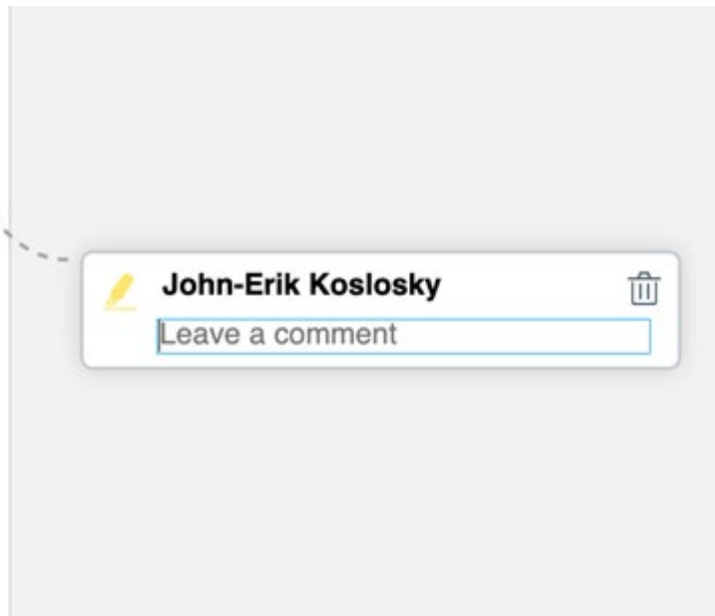
To add a note, just click on the icon in the right margin.



It will open your text box.

based

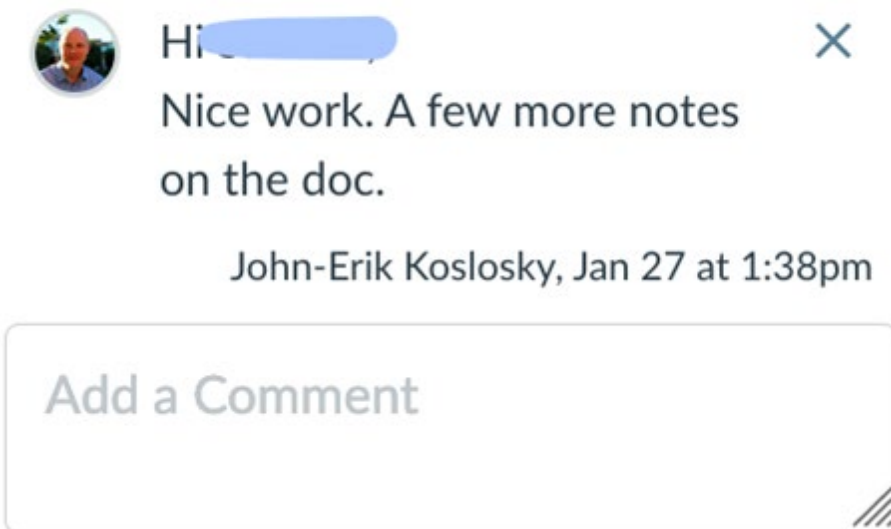
ion. It
of how



Canvas saves your comments as you go. So, even if you accidentally hit the back button like I often do on my MacBook's Touch Bar, you don't have to worry about losing comments.

I tend to keep my Assignment Comments off the document to a minimum, but sometimes use that box to make more general comments, then direct students to the document for more detailed feedback.

Assignment Comments



We all know feedback is critical to student learning and continual progress. In asynchronous courses, especially, it's our primary connection to our students. I've found the annotation tools in Canvas to

be an effective way to get students meaningful feedback with little, if any time and effort wasted. It's at least worth a test ride, even for those of us who prefer pen and paper.

Hope you enjoyed this issue. Keep an eye out for Teaching Tuesdays every Tuesday this semester.

Want to read an earlier issue? You can find it in the Faculty/Staff Resources:

<https://www.bellisario.psu.edu/faculty-staff-resources/teaching-tuesdays>

TEACHING TUESDAYS – Issue #18

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